(i) National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) in April 2000 for promotion of organic export.

(ii) National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) in October 2004 with following objectives:

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce;
- Capacity building through service providers;
- Financial support for commercial production units for production of organic inputs through back ended capital subsidy
    - fruits and vegetable compost units
    - bio-fertilizers units
    - vermi-culture hatcheries
- Market development, promotion, extension and training on organic farming.

Assistance to Punjab for upgradation of semen banks

1060. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has asked the Central Government for more funds for upgrading semen banks to ISO certification for buffalo breeding of Murrah and Mili Ravi breeds; and

(b) if so, whether the amount has been sanctioned and if not, at what stage the proposal is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from the State Government for upgrading semen stations has been considered under National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. Micro-plan of Punjab for 05-06 has been approved for Rs. 1165.59 lakh which includes Rs. 540.70 lakh for modernization and strengthening of semen stations, out of this an amount of Rs. 300.00 lakh has already been released to the State as first instalment.

National Horticulture Mission

1061. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved National Horticulture Mission;

(b) if so, the total outlay given to the National Horticulture Mission in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the manner in which the mission helps in diversification of Horticulture Products and upgradation of technology for post harvest management;

(d) whether there is any plan to extend this mission to the Eleventh Five Year Plan also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRISHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2300.00 crores has been provided to the National Horticulture Mission in the Tenth Fiver Year Plan.

(c) The National Horticulture Mission envisages coverage of new area under horticultural crops through establishment of new gardens in potential belts. The Mission also envisages creation of infrastructure facilities for post harvest management and marketing of horticultural produce besides technology upgradation of farmers through training and demonstrations.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Mission has been approved in principle up to the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan with an out lay of Rs. 15000.00 crore. During the Eleventh Plan, Government of India assistance will be 85 per cent with 15 per cent contribution by the State Governments.

AID to States for promoting horticulture

†1062.SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aid given to the States alongwith their names for promoting horticulture during the last three years as well as the current year;

(b) whether the funds allocated have been underutilized; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.